

In the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently amended) A radio operating system, comprising:

a radio base station unit configured to control a device; and
an operating unit in radio frequency (RF) communication with the radio base station unit,

wherein a selection is provided between a plurality of operating modes of the operating unit, the selection corresponding to a value of a reception parameter with respect to a first threshold value and a second threshold value;

when the reception parameter value is less than [[a]] the first threshold value, a first operating mode is selected and if the reception parameter is greater than the first threshold value a second operating mode is selected; a first, non-safety-critical command set, is usable in each of the first and the second operating modes; a second, safety-critical command set, is usable in the second operating mode; and when the reception parameter is less than the second threshold value, the first operating mode and the second operating mode are blocked.

2. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 1, wherein actuation of a confirmation input device, enables the safety-critical command set.

3. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 1, wherein the operating unit has a display device provided for displaying the operating mode.

4. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 1, wherein the operating unit has an acoustic output device.

5. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 1, wherein when the reception parameter is less than a second threshold value the radio frequency connection between the operating unit and the radio base station unit is disabled.

6. (Currently amended) A method for operating a radio system having at least two units, comprising:

- measuring a transmission quality of the radio frequency (RF) communication between the units to determine of a reception parameter;

- comparing a value of the reception parameter with a first threshold value and a second threshold value;

- selecting one of a plurality of operating modes as a function of the value of the reception parameter with respect to the threshold value, wherein a first operating mode is selected if the value of the reception parameter is less than the first threshold value and a second operating mode is selected if the value of the reception parameter is greater than the first threshold value, and no operating mode of the plurality of operating modes is selected when the reception parameter is less than the second threshold value;

- providing a first, non-safety-critical command set, and a second, safety-critical command set;

- enabling the use of the safety-critical command set and the non-safety critical command set in the second operating mode; and

- enabling the non-safety-critical command set in the first mode, and restricting the use of the safety-critical command set.

7. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein the safety-critical command set is enabled in the first operating mode by actuation of a confirmation input device.

8. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 7, wherein the use of the safety-critical command set is enabled in the first operating mode during the period of actuation of the confirmation input device.

9. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 7, wherein the actuation of the confirmation input device in the first operating mode opens a time slot within which the safety-critical command set is enabled.

10. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein upon switchover from the second operating mode to the first operating mode, an optical report is output.

11. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein when a function associated with the safety-critical command set is chosen in the first operating mode, an acoustic signal is output.

12. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein if the radio frequency (RF) communication between the units is disabled because of the transmission quality, an acoustic signal is output.

13. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein the reception parameter contains information representing the reception quality of the radio frequency communication between the units.

14. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 13, wherein the reception parameter contains information representing the reception radio frequency (RF) field intensity at the location of one of the units.

15. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 13 , wherein the reception parameter includes information representing the bit error rate of the radio frequency (RF) communication between the units.

16. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 6, wherein the reception parameter includes information representing the distance between the units.

17. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 16, wherein the reception parameter is ascertained by transit time measurement.

18. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 2, wherein the operating unit has a display device provided for displaying the operating mode.

19. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 2, wherein the operating unit has an acoustic output device.

20. (Previously presented) The radio operating system as in claim 19, wherein when the reception parameter is less than the second threshold value the radio connection between the operating unit and the radio base station unit is disabled.

21. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 7, wherein upon switchover from the second operating mode to the first operating mode, an optical report is output.

22. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 7, wherein when a function associated with the safety-critical command set is chosen in the first operating mode, an acoustic warning is output.

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23. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 7, wherein if the radio frequency communication between the units is disabled because of the transmission quality, an acoustic signal is output.

24. (Previously presented) The method as in claim 7, wherein the reception parameter contains information representing the reception quality of the radio frequency communication between the units.

25. (Cancelled)